



elevation / wonderhaus

BY SARAH DAoust

Attention all progressive, creative San Diego businesses in search of equally cool digs (and neighbors) in an up-and-coming urban locale: A local developer has big plans underway to revitalize two landmark city blocks in East Village for commercial office and warehouse/distribution use. Architect Graham Downes' BLOKHAUS company has snatched up 56,000 square feet of the property encompassing the historic Wonder Bread building on 14th Street (between L Street and Imperial Avenue); as well as a 32,000-square-foot warehouse on the adjacent block for a total of nearly 90,000 square feet of lease space on 2.5 acres (the majority of which will be available for occupancy later this summer). The beauty of the newly renamed Wonder Bread property, WonderHaus,

is its historic, industrial appeal — think exposed brick, wood and steel finishes, concrete floors and 25-foot ceiling heights. The brick bakery wing of the four-structure building, originally built in 1924, still houses a 40-foot-tall steel silo that was used to hold heavy volumes of flour years ago. Graham Downes Architecture (who else?) is handling all tenant improvements, which include facelifts for the building exteriors, common areas, new storefronts and individual tenant spaces ranging in size from 1,200 to 14,000 square feet. And the best part? There's secure tenant parking for more than 100 cars — practically unheard of downtown.

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